THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, March 23, 1807.

Abstract of the Bill, as amended in the Committee, for promoting and encouraging Industry amongst the Labouring Classes of the Community, and for the Relief and Regulation of the Necessitous and Criminal Poor.

THE preamble sets forth, that the burthen of the poor's rates has been for many years in a state of progressive increase, and has lately arisen to an enormous and alarming height; that the several acts for the relief of the poor of England and Wales have been found, by experience, ineffectual; that the instruction of youth tends most materially to the promotion of morality and virtue, and to the formation of good members of society, whereof we have the most convincing proof, by long experience, in that part of the united kingdom called Scotland.

Schools.

The first clause enacts, that within one year after the passing of the bill, there shall be established in every parish a sufficient number of schools for the instruction of the poor, and contains regulations, conformable to which the churchwardens, overseers, and inhabitants, are to adopt measures for carrying this object into effect, subject to the approbation of the justices of the hundred. The children are to be instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and the girls to be taught, in addition, plain needle-work and knitting. The following classes of children to be admitted into the parish schools free of expence, for the space of two years, between the ages of 7 and 14, viz.

Firstly, the children of all persons not having nor being able, by due diligence, to obtain more than the ordinary price of labour in the parish.

Secondly, the children of all persons having respectively more than four children supported by them, and not having nor being able, by due diligence, to obtain above one-fourth more than such respective rates of labour.

Thirdly, all children supported wholly or in part by the parish.

Fourthly, all orphan and deserted children, who shall not have nor be entitled to some property, producing more than 3s. weekly for the subsistence of each such child. Children not coming within any of the above descriptions, may be admitted to any such school in the parish in which they shall reside, on payment of weekly sums, regard being had in fixing the same to the ability of the parent, or to the provision which may have been made for every such child; the sums to be paid for the instruction of any such child, to be applied towards the expence of the school, or in part of the salary or reward of the master or mistress.

Poor's Fund and Assurance Office.

It is next enacted, that within six calendar months after the passing of the bill, there shall be established an office for receiving and investing the savings of the poor, to be called "The Office of the Poor's Fund," and an office of assurance, to be called "The Poor's Assurance Office." The commissioners for managing these offices to be appointed by his majesty. All persons subsisting by their labour to be entitled to the advantages of the poor's fund, and may remit to the accountant or clerk thereof any sum not exceeding 5l. No person to remit more than 20l. a year, or 200l. in the whole. Country post-masters to mark notes, remitted by post, with a stamp, on receiving 1d. in the pound for their trouble. The money received at the office of the fund to be laid out in the purchase of stock, and each individual to receive a dividend thereon, when his dividend shall amount to 10s. No fees of any kind to be paid to the persons employed in the office. The commissioners of the poor's assurance office are also to be appointed by his majesty. These commissioners, with the approbation of the commissioners of the treasury, to appoint a principal conductor of the business, under the name of "The Actuary of the Poor's Assurance Office." The commissioners to cause tables of assurance to be calculated, and to be made public. Assurances may be made on lives, &c. in consideration of yearly, half-yearly, or quarterly payments. No payment to be less than 10s. nor more than 5l. No person to be allowed

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to make an assurance for a gross sum of 200l. nor for any annuity above 20l. Dividends, &c. in these funds to be exempted from the tax on property, and from the stamp duty on probates and letters of administration. Policies, &c. are exempt from stamp duties, and letters to and from the offices free of postage.

Settlements.

Five years residence as a householder, and not having been convicted of any crime, to give the right of settlement. Justices are empowered to make orders of adjudication of settlements, against which an appeal is granted. Persons required by churchwardens, &c. to give evidence respecting their settlements, to be paid their expences, and a compensation for their time.

Regulation of Vestries.

Vestries are directed to be holden monthly, and to be presided by the minister of the parish, or the senior churchwarden. Every person assessed in the annual value of 100l. to be entitled to give two votes; in 150l. three votes; in 200l. four votes. Where the votes are equal, the minister or churchwarden presiding to have the casting vote. Stock in trade and other personal property (except farming stock) to be assessed. Justices in quarter sessions to assess every parish equally to county rates.

Rewards.

To encourage labouring men to bring up their family without charge to their parishes, the justices in quarter sessions are empowered to give to persons having resided in the parish seven years, rewards, viz. 10l. to him who has brought up six children; 15l. for seven, and 20l. for any greater number; and also, if the same justices think proper, to give, in addition to the pecuniary reward, some distinguishing garments, mark or badge, as a public testimony of the merit of the wearer.

Cottages.

Parishes are authorised to build poor's houses and cottages, and power is given to purchase land for these purposes. Cottages built for the poor to be let at the least rent that can reasonably be obtained for the same; but, with the consent of the vestry, persons not able to pay the rent may have them at a reduced rent, or free. Justices to have the power of removing persons from the cottages.

The remaining clauses of the bill are not remarkable, consisting chiefly of regulations and provisions for carrrying the preceding enactments the better into effect.

THE RING,

A Moral Tale.

By the Authoress of the Occasional Essays.

(Continued from Page 209.)

WHEN the carriage stopped at their own door, he led her immediately to the drawing-room, requesting she would oblige him by sitting at the window, where she would receive the full benefit of the fresh air, and not to fatigue herself by any change of dress 'till after dinner.

Thus he contrived to keep her with him, 'till Cudjoe gave the signal that Mrs. Fidget was out of sight; being sent on an embassy they had concerted, to prevent her seeing her lady, and informing her of the business, and hurry of packing in her absence. The bell summoned them to dinner; Maria very thoughtful, and ate little; and, as soon as the cloth was removed, proposed to retire, having little matters to arrange respecting her dress; for however unwell, she could not, with propriety, refuse the honour of the countess's polite invitation, and must attend the grand route given by her ladyship that evening.

"Sit down, my dear, neither you or myself are expected."

"Sir?"

"Be not alarmed; I must have some conversation with my child concerning this countess, by whom nobility is dishonoured, and human nature disgraced."

"The countess! disgrace?"

"I will not be interrupted. Those tears, Maria, you have shed this day, have deeply wounded a father's heart. Unknowing the cause, the effect were daggers that cut me to the very soul. In your face I behold the beautiful lineaments of your amiable mother, and my adored and ever to be lamented wife! For her sake and your's, I swore never to marry; I swore it on thy innocent lips, unconscious of the solemn vow, and the infantine pressure of nature, from thy baby hand, ratified the oath in Heaven: 'tis there recorded, the sacred pledge of an affectionate husband, and tender father; and no earthly circumstance, or consideration shall tempt me to falsify a vow so fervently given. I cannot be so partial to myself, to suppose I

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am wholly exempt from the common failings of a man, but never will I forget that I am a *Christian*; there is my hold, my firm stay and security; the sheet anchor on which hope rests, placid and serene, in the hour of trial, and of death. This supported me in the severe trial it pleased the almighty giver of all goodness to afflict me with in the loss of your dear mother, to give me fortitude in that trying exigence, and to give me life to guard, protect, and cherish the treasure consigned to my care. If I have shewn an imprudent indulgence, in not limiting my darling girl to a proper expence, it was from a confidence in her prudence, and a wish to lay no restraint on her pleasures; why then not place a confidence in me?"

"Sir—Sir!" sobbed the trembling, weeping Maria.

"Suffer me to interrupt you; your feelings I see bear hard on a mind struck forcibly with reproach; a mind so innately good, that I trust virtue, arrayed in her brightest excellence, now sits secure in that bosom of truth and innocence, never to be dethroned. Dry those tears; I cannot bear them; they pierce too deeply a father's heart, where every pulse beats to forgiveness, forgetfulness, and love; the best may err, and in the present instance, I take more blame to myself, than I impute to you; I ought to have enquired into the character of this infamous countess, before I trusted such a treasure to her care. Since we parted this morning, a gentleman at the rooms let me, in a few words, into her whole history. Her ladyship, infatuated with play, mortgaged the whole of her jointure, and lost every shilling at the gaming-table, where every good principle quickly followed. Slighted by her family, neglected by her acquaintance, and insulted by the world, she endeavours to support her former rank, by the very means by which she was undone. She is now the decoy duck to a gang of swindling black legs, and right honourable sharpers. In the summer season she piddles a little for herself at different watering places, the town being empty; but in winter, her elegant house in London is a constant receptacle for rich heirs, and the thoughtless and the gay of all descriptions, while they have money, reversions, estates, or any thing to lose. Cards of invitation are dispatched, in her ladyship's name, to the *pigeons*, as they are termed, intended to be plucked; an elegant entertainment is provided, at the joint expence of this *firm* of sharpers; the glass circulates freely, and the company, intoxicated with pleasure, are prevailed on to stake at the *faro bank*, hazard, &c. Jews and money-lenders, of every description, are ready in the house, eager, as hungry lions, to seize their prey; notes, bonds, and other instruments of ruin, are signed on the spot, from which her ladyship receives a douceur from the money-lender, as a regular mode of *business*. The *rooks* keep cool, by carefully abstaining from drinking, but the intended *pigeons* are liberally

liberally supplied with the exhilarating juice, not without suspicion of a mixture of auxiliary stimulants. Wine inflames the brain, the spirit of play encreases, encreasing losses rouze the passions to madness; *double* or *quits*, is the general cry, and the plucked pigeon departs in a paroxysm of despair!

"This, my dear, is a true picture of a right honourable gaming-house, where the Lady Viscountess Basto presides as mistress. Could I not depend on the honour and integrity of my informer, Colonel Mark'em, I could not possibly believe such scenes of infamy could exist, much more headed by a peeress of the realm!

"I must now inform you, (you must excuse at present my naming the author) I had a hint given me this morning of your late imprudence, and intending to wait personally on her ladyship, to liquidate your debt of *honour* with her, left you purposely with Mrs. B. having reasons for your not returning home without me; but meeting, by accident, the colonel, who arrived but last night, and the countess's route coming on the tapis, at the rooms, led to a conversation that developed the whole of her ladyship's character. I, in my turn, made a confident of the colonel, and we concerted a little piece of mischief, which has succeeded to our wishes. We waited on her ladyship together; but the evident confusion of the countess, on so unexpectedly beholding Colonel Mark'em, was too manifest to escape observation, even from a stranger, much more one so lately acquainted with the history of her infamy. To do her ladyship justice, she endeavoured to collect herself, and called up the whole artillery of fashionable impudence, to support her against the piercing looks, and sarcastic raillery of the colonel; but he was an old campaigner, and too good a soldier to desert his post. After appropriate compliments to her ladyship's skill and address in the science of gaming, my friend adverted to circumstances of another nature, a rehearsal of which would be wholly improper for the chaste ears of my lovely girl. The countess, swelled with passion, raised her voice to the loudest pitch, and, at last, rouzed to the highest degree of fury, with the true spirit of a Billingsgate, dealt the colonel such a blow in the face, that he really staggered. However, recovering himself, made a profound bow of thanks for the compliment of her ladyship's hand, any where, so it did not come in contact with his *pocket*; and, watching his opportunity, seized both her's, and forced her into a chair. She raved, and foamed with passion; he kept her fast down with one hand, and snatching up a decanter of water with the other, poured the whole contents in her face and bosom, observing it was an admirable *cooler*; the lady, almost suffocated, in vain attempted to articulate, whilst the colonel busily employed himself in fanning her with his hat, bawling to me to ring the bell, and call assis-

tance, or the lady would die under his hands, if medical aid was not immediately procured. The dread of further exposure, like the lightning's flash, calmed the transports of passion, and the fury of a Bedlamite sank into tears, terror, and dismay. She even fell on her knees to supplicate his mercy, which, at my intercession, was extended on this condition only, that the intended route should be given up, and her ladyship quit Brighton within an hour, and if the time limited was procrastinated, he should return, and personally see the mandate obeyed. From this sentence there was no appeal; the colonel was inexorable, and her ladyship complied. This, my dear, is the cause of my detention from you so long this morning; and though I could not have treated the meanest of the sex with so little lenity myself, my heart acknowledged the correction due to her crimes, and that the severe pangs of mortification, arising from her present state of humiliation, were merited. Matters being now settled, my friend hinted we intruded on her ladyship's time. "I beg your pardon, colonel, but I have an affair of *honour*, which must be settled with her ladyship now."

"Honour! why Truman, you contract no play debts, and every other species of honour her ladyship has shook hands and parted with long ago."

"An English merchant, colonel, considers every debt, for which he has made himself accountable, a *debt of honour*, and must be punctually discharged. If my daughter has been led into improprieties, it was with my sanction; I had experience, and should have summoned prudence, as a guard against duplicity. Had I properly investigated her ladyship's character, before I entrusted so valuable a treasure to her care, such fatal consequences would not have ensued. Her ladyship drew a bill of motherly affection on my daughter, under the signature of truly honourable, as well as right honourable protection, to which I, indiscreetly, subscribed. It becomes then *my acceptance*, and must be paid.

"I think, Madam, the sum, your ladyship's superior skill and address have levied on my daughter, amounts to 400l. which these notes cancel; and with a mind *properly* impressed with your ladyship's *condescension*, and *rectitude of principle*, with a thorough knowledge of a character, by which nobility is debased, and the unwary may be undone, take my leave with this lesson of dear bought experience, never to engage again in any *right* honourable connection, 'till I am well assured it will be *honourable* to myself."

(To be continued.)

INTE-

INTERESTING TRIAL.

Proceedings against Commodore Sir Home Popham, on a Charge of having left the Cape of Good Hope unprotected, and sailing with the Ships under his Command, without Orders, on an Expedition to the Rio de la Plata.

THIS trial began on the 6th of March, 1807, at Portsmouth, on board the Gladiator man of war, of 44 guns. The court was formed of the following members:

Admiral Sir W. YOUNG, President.
Vice-Admiral Sir E. Gower,
Vice-Admiral J. Holloway,
Vice-Admiral B. Rowley,
Vice-Admiral Hon. H. E. Stanhope,
Rear-Admiral J. Vashon,
Rear-Admiral Sir I. Coffin,
Rear-Admiral Sir R. Strachan,
Captain S. H. Linzee,
Captain Thomas Graves,
Captain M. Scott,
Captain J. Irvin,
Captain C. Boyle.

The following copy of the order from the lords commissioners of the admiralty for bringing Sir Home Popham to trial, was read to the court as soon as the usual forms of opening it had been complied with, and counsel had been assigned to Sir Home for the purpose of assisting him in making his defence:

By the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c.

Whereas, by our order, dated the 29th of July, 1805, Sir Home Popham, then captain of his majesty's ship Diadem, was directed to take under his command his majesty's ships, Belliqueux, Raisonable, Diomede, Narcissus, and Leda, the Espoir sloop, and Encounter gun-brig, for the purpose of capturing the enemy's settlements at the Cape of Good Hope, in conjunction with the troops under the command of Major-General Sir David Baird, which settlement was surrendered to the ships and troops aforementioned, in the month of January, 1806. And whereas it appears, by letters from the said Sir Home Popham to our secretary, dated the 13th and 30th of April following, that, with a view to attack the Spanish settlements in the Rio de la Plata, for which attack he had no direction or authority

whatever, he did withdraw from the Cape the whole of the naval force, which had been placed under his command for the sole purpose of protecting it, thereby leaving the Cape, which it was his duty to guard, not only exposed to attack and insult, but even without the means of affording to the trade of his majesty's subjects, or of taking possession of any ships of the enemy, which might have put into any of the bays, or harbours of the Cape, or parts adjacent, all which he, the said Sir Home Popham, did, notwithstanding that he had received previous information of detachments of the enemy's ships being at sea, and in the neighbourhood of the Cape; and notwithstanding he had been apprised that a French squadron was expected at the Mauritius, of which he informed us by his letter to our secretary, dated the 9th of April, 1806, only four days prior to his departure from the Cape for the Rio de la Plata.

"And whereas it appears to us, that a due regard to the good of his majesty's service imperiously demands that so flagrant a breach of public duty should not pass unpunished; and whereas, by our order, dated the 28th of July, 1806, Rear-Admiral Stirling was directed to send the said Sir Home Popham to England, which he has done accordingly; and whereas Sir Home Popham was, on his arrival, put under an arrest by our order, and is now at ————, awaiting his trial. We send herewith the necessary papers for the support of the charge; and do hereby require, and direct you forthwith to assemble a court-martial (you being the president thereof), which is hereby required and directed to enquire into the conduct of, and to try the said Captain Sir Home Popham, for the offences with which he is charged accordingly.

"Given under our hands, &c. &c."

This order was accompanied by eighteen documents, all of which were read to the court, in purport as follows:

No. 1. The copy of an order from the lords commissioners of the admiralty, to Sir Home Popham, dated the 29th of July, 1805, to take the ships therein named under his command, and to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope, in conjunction with the troops under the orders of Major-General Sir David Baird.

No. 2. The copy of a letter from John Barrow, esq. the second secretary of the admiralty, dated the 2d of August, 1805, signifying the directions of the lords commissioners of the admiralty, to Sir Home Popham, to send a frigate to cruise on the east coast of South America, to procure intelligence of the enemy's movements, that he might be prepared against any attack.

No. 3. The copy of a letter from John Barrow, esq. dated 14th of September, 1805, signifying the directions of the lords commissioners of the admiralty, to Sir Home Popham, to

retain all the transports at the Cape of Good Hope, after the reduction of that settlement, until he shall receive further orders.

No. 4. The copy of an order from the lords commissioners of the admiralty, to Sir Home Popham, dated 24th of September, 1805, to co-operate with Major-General Sir David Baird in the execution of his majesty's commands, respecting the sending re-inforcements of troops from the Cape of Good Hope to the settlements in India; and in the event of its being found absolutely necessary to forward to India the whole force under the command of Sir David Baird, to protect it thither in the Diadem, &c.

No. 5. The copy of an order from the lords commissioners of the admiralty, to Sir Home Popham, dated the 21st of November, 1805, to send home, without delay, under a proper convoy, all the transports which were not wanted for the conveyance of the troops ordered to proceed to the East Indies.

Nos. 6 and 7. Two letters from Sir Home Popham, to William Marsden, esq. secretary of the admiralty, dated 13th and 28th of January, 1806, giving an account of the capture of the Cape of Good Hope.

No 8. A letter from Sir Home Popham, to William Marsden, esq. dated 22d of February, 1806, giving an account of the Piedmontese French frigate having been spoken with in the neighbourhood of the Cape.

No. 9. A letter from Sir Home Popham, to William Marsden, esq. dated 4th of March, 1806, giving an account of the Voluntaire French frigate, "the forerunner of Admiral Willaumez's squadron," having put into Table Bay, and been taken possession of.

Nos. 10 and 11. Two letters from Sir Home Popham, to William Marsden, esq. dated 12th of March, 1806, on the possibility of being attacked by the enemy at the Cape.

Nos. 12 and 13. Two letters from Sir Home Popham, to William Marsden, esq. dated the 15th and 21st of March, 1806, containing intelligence of the enemy's squadrons.

No. 14. A letter from Sir Home Popham, to William Marsden, esq. dated 9th of April, 1806, informing the lords commissioners of the admiralty, that the intelligence, received by La Voluntaire, appeared "materially to incline to the supposition, that the West Indies was the destination of Admiral Willaumez's fleet, but that General Auker, the late governor of Tranquebar, just arrived on his passage to Europe, had informed him that a French squadron was expected at the Mauritius."

No. 15. A letter from Sir Home Popham, to William Marsden, esq. dated 13th of April, 1806, informing the lords commissioners of the admiralty, that, "on the 10th, he had received

ceived some intelligence, respecting the weak state of defence of Monte Video, and Buenos Ayres, which so fully corroborated what he had already received from various quarters, that he had suggested to Sir David Baird, the expediency of sparing a few troops, for a short time, to bring a question of such importance to an immediate issue." Also inclosing the copy of a letter, dated 13th of April, 1806, which he had written to the governor of St. Helena, requesting him to spare some artillerymen to accompany the expedition; and the copy of a letter to him, (Sir Home Popham), from Mr. Waine, the master and owner of an American ship, called the Elizabeth, dated 28th March, 1806, respecting the strength of Monte Video, and Buenos Ayres.

No. 16. A letter, from Sir Home Popham, to William Marsden, esq. dated the 30th April, 1806, giving an account of his having sailed from the Cape, on the 13th April, and inclosing the copies of letters, which had passed between him and the governor of St. Helena, on the subject of his sparing some troops to strengthen the expedition.

No. 17. A letter, from Sir Home Popham, to William Marsden, esq. dated the 19th July, 1806, inclosing the copies of letters, which he had sent to the Cape of Good Hope, requiring the captains of any of his majesty's ships, which might arrive at that place, to send him reinforcements.

No. 18. A letter, from Sir George Shee, bart. the undersecretary of state for the war department, dated 20th February, 1807, transmitting attested copies of two letters, from Major-General Sir David Baird, to his majesty's principal secretary of state for the war department, dated at the Cape of Good Hope, 14th April, and 15th May, 1806, stating the ground upon which the attack of the settlements on the Rio de la Plata was undertaken; and that the Cape being left destitute of naval force, the French frigate Canonnier, which had anchored in Table Bay, was thereby enabled to effect her escape.

Saturday, March 7.

The court, at the request of Sir Home Popham, allowed him till Monday to prepare his defence.

Monday, March 9.

The court met about 9 o'clock, and Sir Home Popham was immediately called upon for his defence. The hon. captain proceeded in substance nearly as follows:

Mr. President "After having devoted the greater part of my life to the service of my king and country, I am brought before you and the other members of this honourable court, to vindicate my conduct from a charge, of a nature as extraordinary, and as unprecedented, perhaps, as ever was submitted to the investigation of a court martial. I cannot, Sir, enter

into the substance of my defence, without observing to you how extraordinary it is that I should be brought to trial by that superior authority, to which every officer in his majesty's naval service looks up for reward and protection, for having employed the means placed at my disposal in making a successful attack on a possession belonging to the enemy, instead of suffering them to remain inactive and dormant. Nor do I conceive that it is less unprecedented to criminate an officer entrusted with a command of some importance, for having exercised that discretionary power, without which no service can be carried on with energy or effect, when the result of such an act, so far from having been attended with any ill consequence, has, on the contrary, been glorious to his majesty's arms, and honourable to the country.

"This being premised, will it not, Sir, strike every unprejudiced Englishman who shall reflect on the present trial, that it must have arisen from some other cause than that ostensibly set forth in the accusation? I am of that opinion. Nor have I the smallest hesitation to assert, that if the administration by which I was selected for the command which I lately had the honour to hold, had still remained in power, I should have received thanks and approbation for my conduct, instead of having been superseded, recalled, and then very unexpectedly put under arrest and brought to trial. I am not willing to ascribe to men in power a disposition to persecute any man; to deprive any one whom they may feel it their duty to accuse of the means of obtaining every description of evidence, that he may feel necessary to his justification. But I must observe, that it seems rather singular, no notice whatever of an intention to bring me to trial was intimated to me when first ordered home from Rio de la Plata. Had the design of my prosecutors been then known to me, I might have procured a variety of evidence highly important to my case; particularly with regard to my conduct in South America. But in consequence of that omission on the part of the board of admiralty, I am left to depend on such evidence only as accident furnishes me on that part of my case, which is so nearly connected with my honour, I mean my proceedings at Buenos Ayres, which have been so grossly misrepresented. Really the circumstance of no notice having been communicated to me at the Rio de la Plata of the purpose of the admiralty to bring me to trial, must either lead one to think that they had no intention of bringing me to trial at that time, or to adopt a conclusion rather disadvantageous to their character. (Here the honourable officer read the letter from the admiralty in answer to his dispatch announcing the capture of Buenos Ayres.) In this letter it appeared, that although the admiralty thought it necessary to mark their disapprobation of my conduct, in having undertaken this expedition

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without orders, still they were pleased to express the highest approbation of the able and judicious manner in which the expedition was conducted, and of the gallant behaviour of the seamen and soldiers engaged. From the terms of this letter I had no reason to think that any other punishment was in reserve, than that which its censure conveyed, and to that censure, severe as it was, I was willing to submit, until I should have the opportunity of submitting those reasons, which I flattered myself would have served to satisfy the minds of those from whom the censure proceeded, that, considering all the circumstances, it was completely undeserved.

"But now to proceed to the charge before you. I trust I shall be able to shew, that the discretion I exercised was not only such as, under the circumstances, was fairly admissible, but such as the ministers, under whose orders I sailed to the Cape of Good Hope, fully warranted by their concurrent opinions. I shall not only shew that an expedition to South America was a favourite object with Mr. Pitt, that he had it in contemplation, and actually took some steps to carry it into execution in the course of his former administration—but that he never lost sight of it, being only restrained from attempting the execution of it by political reasons, which no longer existed when I felt it my duty, for the interest of my country, to proceed from the Cape of Good Hope upon this long projected expedition.

(To be continued.)

CHARACTERS *of* FRIENDS.

[From Hours of Leisure, or Essays and Characteristics, by Mr. George Brewer.]

AMONG the first class, is Bill Sensitive, whose natural disposition is good-natured; but poor Bill is under a perpetual alarm lest his benevolence should get him into a scrape: thus his life is a constant scene of uneasiness and dread; he shrinks back at every familiar salutation, and is in pain at every word you speak, lest you should ask him a favour; the words, 'You will oblige me very much,' put him immediately in a fever; and 'I come to ask your assistance,' throws him into a perfect agony.

The luke-warm friend is a being of little value to any body; he will not go a step out of his way to serve you; and when you are in a difficulty, all he says, is, 'indeed, I am very sorry to hear it; I wish that I could help you.'

The red-hot friend is not a jot more valuable than the last; he is all bluster, speaking continually of the pleasure of doing

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a generous action, and that for his part he cannot deny any body a favour; but he usually cools before he comes to the point, and leaves you in the lurch when you had reason to expect every thing from his protestations.

The romantic friend is a pleasing companion, in the hour of distress; but the consolation he offers is not true: it accords with our errors, as it pities our sufferings; and instead of making us a sacrifice at the altars of wisdom and prudence, leads us into fresh absurdities and chimerical plans, which the ways of the world will not acknowledge.

The fickle friend is a weak, inconstant creature, who acts without any fixed principle; one time he is all warmth, and the next moment cool and reserved; he is at the same time contemptible and useless.

Nobody's friend is that cool, torpid, and insensible being, whose avarice and meanness have choaked the natural springs of benevolence, and contracted every idea within a narrow space, incapable of bestowing good on others, or happiness on himself.

Anybody's friend is not much more valuable than the last, except that he acts from a total different principle; for indiscriminate in his views of benevolence, and careless of its effects, he serves the worthless, neglects the worthy, fosters the idle, and forgets the good.

Everybody's friend is the man who is at the same time benevolent and just, who measures his generosity by his ability, and never refuses to do a service to any one, but when it would do an injury to another.

REMARKABLE INSTANCES *of* LONGEVITY.

[From the Hampshire Telegraph.]

THE following are instances worth recording of persons who died at a very advanced age during the year 1806.

Aged 100 Ann Dixon, Fenwick Hall
100 Margaret Barrow, Holker
100 Mr. Hornidge, Gloucester
100 John Bell, Moorhouse
100 Mrs. Battie, Throstle Nest
100 Mary Gregory, Bristol
100 Mrs. Crisp, Lodden, Norfolk
100 Mary Evans, Oswestry
100 Samuel Griffiths, Kennarth
100 Andrew Fraser, Isle of Sky
101 Margaret Shirwin, Kirkby

Aged 101 Thomas Willy, Buckland St. Mary
101 Margaret Tate, South Shields
101 J. Moore, Newcastle
101 Mrs. Galey, Norwich
101 Mrs. Hammond, Horndean
102 Sarah Chafe, Polruan
102 Ann John, Llandelog
103 Maria Teresa Twist, Birmingham
103 John Potts, Edlingham
103 Samuel Anstey, Coleshill
104 Sarah Fisher, Knutsford
104 Mary Lazell, Colchester
104 Mrs. Hunt, Limerick
104 Gayner Thomas, Capel Cerig
104 John Turner, Eventhorpe
105 Elizabeth Spencer, Fareham
105 Mrs. Lawrence, Lincoln
105 Janet Cormack, Whitehall, N. B.
105 Mary Biggs, Thornbury
105 Robert Sheriffs, Udny
106 Anne Griffiths, Hereford
106 John Hunter, Esh, Durham
106 John Shortal, Ireland
107 John Benbow, Northwood
107 Susan Paxman, Great Glenham
107 Josiah Freeman, Reading, America
107 John Stubings, Beccles, Norfolk
107 William Marchant, Liverpool
107 Sarah Parris, Jamaica
111 Ann Strounge, Eltham
112 Mary Farmer, Sunderland
113 Mrs. Roope, Thurston, Norfolk
114 John Blakeney, Skibbereen
120 Sarah O'Leary, Ireland
125 Mr. Creek, Thurlow, Suffolk
131 John Tucker, Itchen Ferry
134 Catharine Lopez, Jamaica.

Of the above forty-eight persons, nineteen were males, and twenty-nine females; of the latter, only one is mentioned as not having been married; forty were, at the time of their decease, inhabitants of England and Wales, two of Scotland, three of Ireland, and three of other countries. Of above half the number nothing more is recorded than the mere name and age, and the particulars given respecting the others, are so few and unimportant, that they supply very little additional information on the subject. Although it is probable that nearly the whole number in the list were persons who had been married, only

only sixteen are mentioned as such: of these Mrs. Gayner Thomas had fourteen children, William Marchant was the father of nineteen children, and Samuel Griffiths the father of twenty-five children. As instances of such great age, although more numerous than is commonly suspected, bear a very small proportion to the whole population of the country, it would appear highly improbable, if longevity entirely depended on the natural constitution of the individual, that such persons should happen to meet with husbands or wives of constitutions equally durable; yet in the above list there are four instances in which this appears to have been the case. Andrew Fraser had been married to one wife nearly seventy years, and has left her behind him: John Shortal has left a widow in her one hundred and second year; John Hunter has left a widow aged ninety-two; and William Marchant, a widow, in her ninety-ninth year. This certainly shews that the situation and mode of living of the parties must have materially contributed to their long life. It is not probable that long life can be attained by any other means than such as promote health and vigour, and consequently qualify the individual the better to enjoy existence, nor would it be at all desirable under other circumstances; but it is almost invariably found, that persons who do attain to very great age, possess their powers of body and mind, during the latter years of their life, in a greater degree of vigour than most who die at the more common periods of duration. Thus in the above list, defective as the accounts are from which it is formed, there are ten persons mentioned as having retained the enjoyment of all their faculties to the last.

REMARKS on POLITENESS in the GREAT.

By Mr. CUMBERLAND.

IF I were called upon to name that grace, which is most endearing, that maxim, which is most worldly-wise for men, in elevated stations, it would be punctuality in answers and appointments. It sweetens favours, and it softens refusals; it is the most sovereign charm against envy, malice, and those numerous discontents, that indispose the minds of men against the great and fortunate. I think I may venture to say upon my long experience, that I have never known the person, who left a great man's presence in an angry and revengeful humour, when he had been patiently heard and politely treated, although his suit had miscarried.

REFLECTION.

THE real enjoyment of life consists more in the preservation of a serene temper than in the greatest riches and honours.

BEREAVEMENT *of* FRIENDS.

By Mr. CUMBERLAND.

WHAT a multitude of past friends can I number amongst the dead? It is the melancholy consequence of old age; if we outlive our feelings, we are nothing worth; if they remain in force, a thousand sad occurrences remind us that we live too long. For my part, I must sojourn amongst strangers, or seek to make acquaintance with the children and grand children of my departed friends. Though I can hardly harmonize with their society, still I prefer the making suit to their favour, and am flattered if they endure me; for I have never yet discovered the delights of solitude. I consider it as a singular felicity in my life, and a circumstance to instance for their credit, with whom I have been connected, that when fortune seemed to have deserted me, I had not to lament the falling away of friends. Men of the world are drawn off from us by the world; this is too often interpreted as an abandonment, when in fact it is only the result of avocation: when they in course of time cease to tread the public road of life, we meet them in the bye-paths of retirement, and find our friendship interrupted only, not renounced.

A Portland Virtuoso's general Catalogue of Rarities.

Febwarey 81807.

HENERY W——— Sill veary Good Peter Fid Wood Larg ar Smal and Good Spar and Peter Fid Watar vary Good and Good Agets For Sels Vary Good and Morsels and Cockels shells and Coniyoumonings Veary Good Sure and Razear Fish veary Good and Scotel Bon and Som Weds and Mucharowns and Good Mundick our and veary Fin Amen shills From Garnseary and Smal Negars shils Veary, Good Henery W——— Pwortland.

W———'s Catalogue of Curiosities, in Verse.

H. W———, of Portland, has every thing good,
Sells petrefi'd water, and petrefi'd wood;
Mussels, agates—all fossils, as nice as you'd wish;
Weeds, mushrooms, with spar, and fine razor fish,
Negro, cockle, and arm-shells (that's now quite the *ton*)
From the island of Guernsey, and fine scuttle bone,
Cornua-ammonis, and mundic ore, all of the best,
At W———'s, in Portland, in the highest request.

Answer, by Somebody, of Awliscombe, to H. Stoneman's Charade, inserted Jan. 5.

IF you but place the parts aright,
A WOODMAN you will bring to sight.

*** Similar answers have also been received from Rusticus, of Awliscombe; B Belcher, of East Stonehouse; J S. of Exeter; J. Rowden, of Heytesbury; J. Whitnell, of Street; W. H. H of Totnes; M. P. Moyle, of Marazion; Palemon, of Flushing; J. Woodman, of North Curry; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; and P. Codd, of Dean Prior.

Answer, by W. T. Dineck, St. Budeaux, to A. Dyer's Charade, inserted Jan. 5

THE HORNET is a stinging fly,
Which made me for the answer try.

*** Similar answers have been received from J. Ryan, of East Stonehouse; J. Rowden, of Heytesbury; J. Whitnell, of Street; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; W. D. of Bristol; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; R. Loosemore, of Tiverton; J. C Cooke, H. Ellis, H. Stoneman, and J. S. of Exeter; H. Easter, and J. Lewis, of Poole; M P. Moyle, of Marazion; J. Salter, of Broadbembury; P. Codd, and R. Gidley, of Dean Prior; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; J. Fairweather, of Batson; A. F. of Melbury Osmond; and Palemon, of Flushing.

A CHARADE, *by T. Rutger, of Clowance.*

MY first it is a sort of food,
Tho' not oft us'd by man;
My second, if right understood,
A measure you will scan.
In those enchanting hours of spring,
When flowers bedeck the ground,
'Mongst warbling birds that blithsome sing,
My whole may then be found.

An ENIGMA, *by R. Trewavas, Jun.*

TO please my friends, a race of social men,
I quit my labour, and resume my pen.
Aided by you, ye lovely muses nine,
Dark barren wastes, and dangerous rocks define,
Whose latent dangers circling ocean laves,
Where fated wand'rers find their speedy graves;
I ne'er could boast of a prophetic race,
Yet many a saint my dreary shores can grace;
When Israel trackless deserts wander'd o'er,
A pillary cloud, and fire went on before;
So here, one saint the stranger guides by day,
At night the other shews a flaming ray;
A sister saint betwixt, more boldly stands,
Larger in bulk, and boasts superior lands:
When peace begins, and commerce doth appear,
All nations dread me as a lurking snare;
But what avails, ye deep-fam'd, searching throng,
Remove the cov'ring, and unveil my song.

☞ *While new and interesting articles continue to offer for the Entertainer, we think it best to decline republishing from old books.*

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

CHARITY.

OBSERVE those tears, that steal adown its cheek,
Those sighs that, lab'ring, from its bosom break;
That placid look, that countenance of love,
Which paints the soul, and all the passions prove;
That soften'd smile, succeeding every sigh;
That dimpled cheek, ere yet the tear is dry;
That eye, soft sparkling, O! it proves indeed
The sweet performance of a gracious deed!
Say, hast thou, charity! from want and pain,
The orphan rais'd, and father'd him again?
Hast thou bade want his misery forego,
And chas'd the clouds of wretchedness and woe?
Bade the sunk eye of poverty to cheer,
Or banish'd sorrow from the brow of care?
Hast thou infus'd thy sov'reign balm to still
The widow's grief, and all her bosom fill
With peace long lost—to wipe her falling tear,
Soften her woe, and all her sorrows share?
Hast thou outstretch'd thy fost'ring arms to save,
The wretched outcast from a sudden grave?
Hast thou, beside the bed of death, allay'd
The gloomy prospects of the dreary shade?
The trembling soul disburthen'd of its load,
And brought the sinner to adore his God!
Such works are thine, O charity benign!
Exalting human to a state divine.

Camborne. J. B.

The LAKE *of the* DISMAL SWAMP.

By T. MOORE, *Esq.*

IN the neighbourhood of that dreary track, called the Lake of the Dismal Swamp, which lies about twelve miles distant from Norfolk, in America, the inhabitants have the following story, which forms the subject of the annexed ballad: A young man losing his senses, upon the death of a lady, to whom he paid his addresses, imagined that she still lived upon the above lake; thither he repaired, and probably perished in some of its dreadful morasses, as he was never heard of afterwards by his family.

" THEY made her a grave too cold and damp
" For a soul so warm and true;
" And she's gone to the Lake of the Dismal Swamp;
" Where all night long, by a fire-fly lamp,
" She paddles her white canoe.

" And her fire-fly lamp I soon shall see,
" And her paddle I soon shall hear;

" Long

" Long and loving our life shall be,
" And I'll hide the maid in a cypress tree,
" When the footstep of death is near."

Away to the Dismal Swamp he speeds—
His path was rugged and sore,
Thro' tangled juniper beds of reeds,
Thro' many a fen where the serpent feeds,
And man ne'er trod before!

And when on the earth he sunk to sleep,
If sleep his eye-lids knew,
He lay where the deadly vines do weep
Their venomous tears, and nightly steep
The flesh with blistering dew!

And near him the she-wolf stirr'd the brake,
And the rattle-snake breath'd in his ear,
'Till he starting cried—from his dream awake—
" O! when shall I see the dusky lake,
" And the white canoe of my dear?"

He saw the lake, and a meteor bright,
Quick o'er the surface play'd—
" Welcome, (he said) my dear one's light!"
And the dim shore echoed, for many a night,
The name of the death-cold maid!

'Till he formed a boat of the birchen bark,
Which carried him off from the shore;
Far he followed the meteor spark;
The winds were high, and the clouds were dark,
And the boat returned no more!

But oft from the Indian hunter's camp,
This lover and maid so true,
Are seen at the hour of midnight damp,
To cross the lake by a fire-fly lamp,
And paddle their white canoe!

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

EPITAPH *on the late* GENERAL SIMCOE.

By ANNA SEWARD.

TO deck lamented Simcoe's hallow'd tomb,
Bid all thy laurels, sacred honour, bloom!
Depriv'd Britannia! o'er thy warrior's bier
Veil'd the droop'd head, and bend th' inverted spear!
Genius and art your greenest wreaths bestow,
And here religion shall thy amaranths blow!
Connubial bliss thy thornless roses bring,
That shed o'er wintry life perpetual spring!
Friendship and filial duty blend your tears,
Pour'd o'er the memory of departed years!
Here, O ye virtues! spread your palms divine,
This once warm bosom was your chosen shrine!
But since no gem escapes the sullying vein,
No radiant sun the slightly darkening stain,
Some spots of frailty in that soul might rise,
Whose altering form *here* cold and silent lies.
Now, from his earthly bound for ever freed,
Angel of mercy! for thy votary plead,
'Till love redeeming, wash his stains away,
Ope the bright gate, and give the nightless day!